Attingal. Secondly, the hospital was not a fully equipped one, in so far as there were no lady doctors to attend to women patients. A women's hospital should therefore be opened at Attingal.

The member then dealt with the following subjects :—

(1) The Attingal municipal council was conducting an English girls' school. The municipality did not have sufficient funds to run the school. Government should therefore either take over the management of the school or award a grant-in-aid to the municipality for running it.

(2) Municipal conferences should be held once or twice a year in which the presidents of the different municipalities could meet and discuss questions relating to municipal administration.

(3) Government should give better encouragement to the teaching of Sanskrit and Arabic in schools. These languages should be prescribed as alternatives to vernacular translation and composition for the Engilsh School Leaving Certificate Examination and also as optionals along with History, Mathematics or Science.

(4) With a view to promoting habits of temperance among the people, liquor shops should be removed as far as possible from thickly populated areas and eventually from municipal limits.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Maluk Muhammad Abdul Khadir, in regard to the girls' school which you want Government to take over and run as a Government institution. I may say that it is not quite practicable. The school was started by the municipality as one of its enterprising activities. So, it is for the municipality to run it and all of you who are the people of Attingal should see that such a useful branch of activity is properly conducted.

It is a question for consideration by the Director of Public Instruction to substitute Arabic and other classical languages as a distinct subject for the School Final Examination.

In regard to the question of transfer of liquor shops from the municipal limits to outside that area, that again is a matter which will have to wait till the experiment of local option is tried. We are going to try it at Changanachery for a year or two by which Government will be in a position to know how the experiment works.

87. Needs of the Chirayinkil taluk.

MR. M. KUNJUKRISHNAN (*Member, Nominated*) dealt with the following needs of the Chirayinkil taluk :—

1. *Opening of the Muthalapozhi bar*—The member said that the bar was usually opened only when water rose four feet above the ordinary level. This resulted in constant floods which destroyed the paddy crops and affected the cocoanut plantations. The soaking of cocoanut husks for coir making also became impossible during the floods and a large number of people to whom coir making was the only means of living were thrown out of employment. Besides, the floods caused great havoc among the poor householders on the banks of the lake. It was therefore highly necessary that the bar should be opened when water rose two feet above the ordinary level.

2. *Onnampalam road*--Formerly there was a cartable road from Mukkalvattam where the Vettur-Vilabhagam road terminated to Onnampalam at Kovilthottam. This road was now in complete disrepair and was almost non-existent. This road should be repaired. There was no necessity to acquire any private lands for the purpose. There was a continuous stretch of Sirkar lands from Mukkalvattam to Onnampalam which could be utilised for the road.

3. *Ariyittakunnu lane.*—There was a steep and narrow lane from the Vettur-Vilabhagam road to the Ariyittakunnu bungalow. The boys attending the Nedungan-da S. N. V. English High School and the Vettur Sirkar V. P. School had to go to these schools through this lane which was anything but serviceable in the rainy season. When the Director of Public Instruction visited the institutions last time, he had promised to consult the Chief Engineer regarding the improvement of this lane

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4. *The Akathumuri railway station road*—The people of Ayanti, Vettur, Vilabhagam and other places near the Akattumuri railway station had no approach to the station. They were now using the railway line, which was very risky. But from Puthanchantai to Ariyittakunnu there was a public road and from between the 1st and 2nd milestones of this road there was a lane to the Vennikodu Roman Catholic church. From there to the Akathumuri railway station there were Sirkar poramboke lands which could be used for opening a road to the station.

5. *Nilakkamukku-Kayikara road.*—To a representation made on the subject at the 23rd session of the Assembly, Government had given the reply that they did not consider it necessary to have a road there. The reasons for this order were not clear. The construction of the road should be investigated again.

6. *Nedunganda Anchal office*—There was a non-departmental Anchal office at Nedunganda, which should be raised to a departmental Anchal office with a savings bank branch.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kunjukrishnan, in regard to the opening of the bar in the Anjengo backwaters, you want that it should be opened whenever the water level rises to 2 ft. instead of four as at present. The bar is now opened when the water level rises to 4 ft. How far more frequent openings will be necessary by lowering the height to 2 ft. how it will affect cultivation may have to be enquired into. If it is opened so frequently then the lake water will be so charged with brine that it may prove injurious to cultivation. I will have this aspect of the question considered by the responsible officers. The next representation you made was about the extension of the Vettoor-Vilabhagom road from Mukkalvattom to the 1st bridge at the southern extremity of the Varkala canal. That work has been taken up for execution this year and is being proceeded with.

In regard to the maintenance of the approach lane from the above road to the Ariyittakunnu bungalow, I know that lane runs through private lands and is used mainly for going to and from school. It is not Government land at all, so Government cannot maintain it.

As regards the extension of the Vettoor road on the line from Puthenchantai to Ariyittakunnu bungalow to Akathumuri railway station branching between miles 1 and 2 *via*, Vennikode Roman Catholic church, it is a matter for investigation and the Chief Engineer is going to initiate it immediately.

In regard to the conversion of the existing lane from Nilakkamukku road to Kayikarakadavu into a cart road, that is a thing that has come up before the Assembly previously and also before the Government. The work involves a great deal of expenditure and then there is already communication both by navigation canal and by railway between these two places and in view of the existing communications, it is hardly justifiable to spend a good deal of money on that account.

As regards the opening of a savings bank branch in the Nedunganda Anchal office, I anticipate no difficulty. If the Anchal Superintendent can find that business justifies the expenditure involved both in improving the station and in appointing a senior Anchal master and additional staff, that will be done.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. on Saturday, the 3rd March 1928.

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